

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, May 20, 2005

IN MEMORIAM: RESERVE OFFICER JOSEPH POZELL

The MPDC and the entire DC community are mourning the loss of Second District Reserve Officer Joseph Pozell, a popular fixture in the Georgetown community who was killed in the line of duty last week in a tragic traffic accident. Reserve Officer Pozell was at his usual post, directing traffic at Wisconsin Avenue and M Street, NW, on Saturday afternoon, May 14, when he was struck by a vehicle. He was taken to the George Washington University Hospital and admitted in critical condition. On Tuesday night, May 17, he succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced dead at the hospital. The investigation conducted by the MPDC's Major Crash Investigations Unit indicates that Reserve Officer Pozell apparently stepped back into the path of the oncoming vehicle, and no charges will be placed against the driver of the vehicle. Pozell was a nine-year veteran volunteer of the MPDC: six years with the Police Auxiliary Service and three years as a Reserve Officer, in which he not only directed traffic but also walked foot beats, assisted on sobriety checkpoints and provided other valuable support to 2D. Reserve Officer Pozell worked as the long-time superintendent of the Oak Hill Cemetery, 3001 R Street, NW, where he and his wife, Ella, lived. They have an adult son. To honor Reserve Officer Pozell, the MPDC is providing him with a full, line-of-duty police funeral Monday morning at the Washington National Cathedral. In addition, flags at all MPDC and DC government facilities are being flown at half staff, and MPDC officers are authorized to wear black mourning bands over their badges. Pozell is the first MPDC Reserve Officer to die in the line of duty.

- ① For more information, visit:

<http://app.mpd.cdc.gov/newsroom/newsroom.asp?sid=3190>

- ① In lieu of flowers, the Pozell family has asked that well-wishers consider contributing to the following organizations: Concerns of Police Survivors-DC Chapter, Friends of Oak Hill Beautification Fund, or HEROES (Honor Every Responsible Officer's Eternal Sacrifice). Contact information is available at:

<http://app.mpd.cdc.gov/newsroom/newsroom.asp?sid=3190>

- ① Individuals are also invited to submit a personal remembrance of Reserve Officer Pozell at:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1233,q,539213.asp>

MPDC PREPARES TO ASSUME NEW MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY FOR SCHOOL SAFETY

With a new DC law that transfers management responsibility for school safety to the MPDC taking effect July 1, the Department continues to prepare for this new role. In testimony this week before the US House Government Reform Committee, Chief Ramsey gave an update on the transition. School safety services will continue to be provided by contract security guards and uniformed MPDC School Resource Officers and Sergeants. However, the MPDC will be responsible for overseeing implementation of the contract and the activities and performance of the contract guards; these functions were previously handled by the DC Public Schools. Chief Ramsey said the new contract was developed through a collaboration of the MPDC, DCPS and the DC Office of Contracting and Procurement, with input from principals, parents and community members as well. The Chief said the new contract, which has been presented to the DC Council for approval, sets higher standards for the selection and training of private security personnel, establishes new integrity and performance standards (including a program of drug testing) and provides for stronger monitoring of contract performance. "The results, we believe, will be a better-trained, higher-quality school safety workforce; greater coordination among private security, MPD personnel, and school staff; and, ultimately, safer schools for our students, faculty, staff and parents," Ramsey told the Committee. In his testimony, the Chief said the number of crimes reported on DCPS property has declined 18 percent in calendar year 2005. In 2004, there were at least 522 serious crimes reported on DCPS property, a slight increase from 2003.

- ① Read the Chief's complete statement at:

http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1247,q,557028,mpdcNav_GID,1543.asp

- ① Two DC Council committees are holding a Public Roundtable on the new school security guard contract, on Monday, May 23. MPDC representatives are testifying about the process used to develop the contract and the reform provisions contained in the new contract.

DC OFFICIALS ASSAIL SENATE PROPOSAL TO OVERTURN CITY'S HANDGUN LAWS

Mayor Williams, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, Chief Ramsey and other DC leaders this week reacted with anger and resolve to a new proposal from three US Senators to have Congress overturn DC's local laws governing handgun ownership and possession. The proposal—introduced by Texas's two Senators and Senator George Allen of Virginia—would permit individuals to own and possess handguns in their homes. Said Mayor Williams, "I am incensed by any Congressional proposal that uses District residents as pawns. I am incensed by any proposal that assaults Home Rule. And I am incensed by any proposal that is an insult to the memory of the people who have died in this city due to gun violence—in particular the three children who have died from gun violence this year." Added Congresswoman Norton, "We will not allow the two Texas Senators, the NRA and shamelessly a Senator from our own region, to revive last year's brazen attacks on the District's gun safety laws that protect our children, their families and our democratic right to govern ourselves in our own country." Chief Ramsey pointed out that while gun violence remains a serious problem in DC, the proposal comes at a time when homicides and other violent crimes are down sharply and firearm recoveries by police are up. "If members of the Senate want to contribute to public safety in the District, they should support the public safety priorities we've continually articulated during hearings on the Hill," the Mayor added.

MPDC REMINDS MOTORISTS: "CLICK IT OR TICKET"

DC boasts one of the highest seat belt usage rates in the nation: 87.1 percent in 2004, up from 84.9 percent in 2003 and 77.9 percent in 1999. To get even more drivers and passengers to buckle up—and to prevent needless injuries and save lives in the process—officials from the MPDC, the District Department of Transportation and federal partners are once again launching the "Click It or Ticket" campaign this spring and summer. A kickoff news conference will be held on May 25. "Click It or Ticket" includes two parts: public education about seat belt usage and stepped-up enforcement of the District's tough seat belt laws. The educational component includes advertising, as well as "Click It or Ticket" signs on gateway streets leading into the District and community outreach activities. The enforcement component includes safety checkpoints, saturation patrols, and other strategies in all seven police districts. Special attention this year will be paid to night-time seat belt compliance. Nationally, 81 percent of individuals killed in night-time crashes are unbuckled. Under DC law, the driver and all passengers—both front and rear seat—must be buckled up. Violations carry a \$50 fine, plus two points on the driver's license. Also, DC has a "primary" seat belt law, meaning that officers can stop motorists solely for seat belt infractions.

NEWS & NOTES

Roundtable on Police Compensation Package. The DC Council holds a Public Roundtable on May 24 on the "Police Compensation Approval Resolution of 2005," which would implement the new collective bargaining agreement negotiated between the MPDC and the Fraternal Order of Police Labor Committee. Among other provisions, the agreement would provide MPDC sworn members with a 21 percent pay increase over the five years of the contract.

Sex Offender Registry Update. As of April 29, there were 620 registered sex offenders in DC. Of these, 591 were defined under DC law as either Class A or Class B offenders and, therefore, are posted on the MPDC website. The remaining 29 were less serious, Class C offenders; information about them is available at district stations and select other MPDC facilities. For more information about DC's program, visit http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1241,q,540704,mpdcNav_GID,1523,mpdcNav,.asp

① Read the Mayor's statement at: <http://dc.gov/news/statement.asp?id=177>

① Read Congresswoman Norton's statement at: <http://www.norton.house.gov/issues2.cfm?id=10599>

① Learn more at: http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1240,q,547844,mpdcNav_GID,1552,mpdcNav,.asp

① DC law also requires that children under the age of 8 be properly seated in an infant, toddler or booster seat. Violations carry at least a \$75 fine and two points. Details at: http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,547368,mpdcNav_GID,1549,mpdcNav,.asp

DATA BOX

Homicides	as of 5/20/05
◆ 2005: 63	
◆ 2004: 76	
◆ % Change: -17.1%	
◆ Closure Rate: 58.7% (37 closures)	
Adult Arrests	week end. 5/14/05
◆ Total: 1,020	
◆ Drugs: 196	
◆ Weapons: 25	
◆ Motor Vehicle Theft: 15	
◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 42	
Juvenile Activity	week end. 5/14/05
◆ Arrests: 61	
◆ Curfew Violations: 59	
◆ Truants: 78	
Firearm Recoveries	as of 5/18/05
◆ May: 129	
◆ 2005 Total: 1,002	
Traffic Fatalities	as of 5/20/05
◆ 2005: 20	
◆ 2004: 24	
◆ % Change: -16.7%	

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

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